

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 6, 12-13, and 21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 2, 4-5, 7-10, 14-15, 17-19, and 22-26 have been amended, so that claims 2-5, 7-11, 14-20, and 22-27 are presently pending. Claims 7, 9, 10, 14, 18, 19, 25, and 26 are independent.

In the Office Action dated July 2, 2004, claims 7, 9-11, 14, 18-20 and 25-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As suggested in the Action, claims 7, 9, 10, 14, 18, 19, 25, and 26 have been rewritten in independent form and should therefore be in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 4, 5, and 8 as amended and claim 3 depend directly or indirectly from claim 7, claim 11 depends from claim 10, claims 15 and 17 as amended and claim 16 depend directly or indirectly from claim 14, claim 20 depends from claim 19, claims 22 and 23 as amended depend from claim 25, and claim 24 as amended and claim 27 depend from claim 26. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-5, 8, 11, 15-17, 20, 22-24, and 27 should also be in condition for allowance.

Therefore, the present application should now be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 445-3460.

A one-month Petition for Extension of Time accompanies this Amendment, along with a check in the amount of \$55.00 for the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17. A check in

Appl. No. 10/605,800
Amdt. dated November 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2004

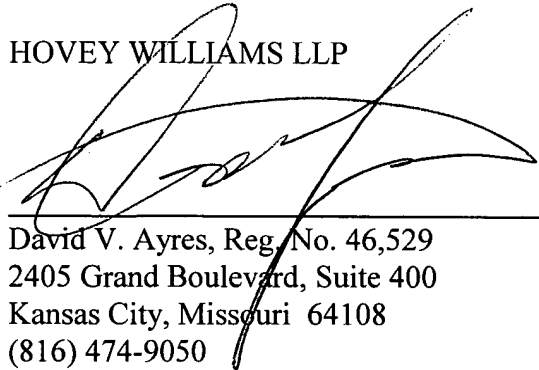
the amount of \$220.00 also accompanies this Amendment for the 5 additional independent claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Docket No. 34067)